

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 01414 241233Z
ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CU-02 ERDA-05 L-03 FEA-01 EB-08
INT-05 AGRE-00 COME-00 HUD-01 EPA-01 HEW-04 CIAE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIEP-01 DODE-00 FEAE-00
FPC-01 H-01 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-06 SP-02 SS-15
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MARR, TGEN, SP
SUBJECT: 1976 TREATY SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION:
STATUS REPORT.

REF: STATE 15221

SUMMARY: A NUMBER OF ISSUES WERE RAISED AT THE INFORMAL
MEETING OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE FOR SCIENTIFIC AND
TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION ON OCTOBER 22. THIS CABLE REPORTS
PROGRESS: ISSUES RESOLVED ISSUES IS REPORTED, AND DEPARTMENTAL
GUIDANCE IS SOLICITED. END SUMMARY

1. LIST OF RESOLVED ISSUES:
A. PROCEDURAL GUIDELINES FOR THE JOINT COMMITTEE HAVE BEEN
WRITTEN AND ACCEPTED (COPY POUCHED TO OES).
B. A PRELIMINARY PLAN FOR A SPANISH SOLAR ENERGY CENTER
HAS BEEN AGREED UPON (REF. STATE 23792).
C. AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED ON ESTABLISHMENT OF A PROGRAM
DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT FUND. (COPY OF EMBASSY MEMORANDUM
TO SPANISH CO-CHAIRMAN, RECORDING AGREEMENT ON ESTABLISHMENT
OF FUND AND LIMITATIONS, POUCHED TO OES).
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PAGE 02 MADRID 01414 241233Z

D. FIFTH TRANCHE FUNDS TOTALLING \$1.8 MILLION FROM THE
1970 AGREEMENT HAVE BEEN ADDED TO THE FIRST \$4.8 MILLION
OF 1976 TREATY FUNDS FOR S & T. (COPIES OF DIPLOMATIC
NOTES POUCHED TO OES).
E. AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED DEFINING THREE BROAD
CLASSES OF S & T AID UNDER THE TREATY (REF. STATE 19069).

2. UNRESOLVED ISSUES:

A. AGREEMENT ON SPECIFIC PROGRAM AREAS AND ALLOCATION OF FUNDS TO THEM.

(1) AT THE OCTOBER MEETING, THE SPANISH PROVIDED A PRELIMINARY LIST OF AREAS THEY FOUND INTERESTING FOR TREATY RESEARCH: INCLUDED WERE BIOMEDICINE, AGRICULTURE, URBAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS, NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY (ESPECIALLY NUCLEAR AND SOLAR). SINCE THEN, IN CONVERSATION, THE SPANISH HAVE ALSO MENTIONED INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH SUCH AS METALLURGY. OVERALL, WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT MOST PROJECTS WILL BE APPLIED RATHER THAN BASIC RESEARCH. WHILE IT APPEARS LIKELY THAT SOLAR ENERGY WILL TAKE THE LARGEST SHARE OF FUNDS (REF. 76 STATE 21577), NO RELIABLE TOTALS WILL BE AVAILABLE UNTIL SPANISH HAVE SOLICITED PROPOSALS FROM THEIR SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY, MADE THEIR TENTATIVE CHOICES, AND GROUPED THE PROJECTS INTO PROGRAMS, WHILE SPANISH SIDE CLAIMS THIS PROCESS CAN BE COMPLETED BY LATE MARCH, WE ESTIMATE THAT IT WILL TAKE UNTIL EARLY APRIL, AND COULD TAKE SEVERAL WEEKS LONGER.

(2) THE U.S. SIDE RESERVED DECISION DURING THE OCTOBER MEETING ON BIOMEDICINE AS AN APPROPRIATE PROGRAM AREA. WE REQUEST DECISION ON THIS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, AND SIMILARLY ON A PROGRAM OF INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH.

(3) EMBASSY RECEIVED BY MEMORANDUM OF FEBRUARY 16 FROM THE SPANISH SECRETARY OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE SUGGESTION THAT MARCH 30 OR 31 MIGHT BE SUITABLE DATE FOR THE NEXT JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING - THIS ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE SPANISH SIDE WILL BE READY TO DEFINE PROGRAM AREAS AND PRESENT THEM TO THE JOINT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 MADRID 01414 241233Z

COMMITTEE FOR DECISION. AS NOTED ABOVE, WE ARE SOMEWHAT DOUBTFUL SPANISH WILL HAVE PROGRAMS READY FOR PRESENTATION BY THAT DATE, BUT RECOMMEND THAT THE ASST SECY FOR OES ACCEPT SPANISH INVITATION, SUBJECT TO CONDITION THAT DECISION CAN BE MADE ON PROGRAM AREAS AND ROUGH ALLOCATION OF FUNDS TO THEM. IF NOT, WE WOULD SUGGEST THAT APPROPRIATE EMBASSIES WOULD ATTEND A WORKING MEETING OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE TO CARRY FORWARD DISCUSSION OF ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS AND PREPARE FOR PLENARY SESSION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE THEREAFTER.

B. PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION.

(1) THE AGREEMENT THAT TREATY AID BE DIVIDED INTO THREE CLASSES (COOPERATIVE RESEARCH GRANTS, INSTITUTIONAL GRANTS FOR PURCHASE OF U.S. EQUIPMENT BY SPANISH CENTERS, AND DIRECT RESEARCH GRANTS TO CENTERS IN SPAIN TO SUPPORT SPANISH PROJECTS) CREATES ISSUES OF PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION, FOR ALL CANNOT APPARENTLY BE HANDLED UNDER PRECISELY THE SAME PROCEDURES.

(2) SPECIFICALLY, WE SEE NO REASON WHY U.S. LEAD AGENCIES CANNOT BE USED TO ADMINISTER COOPERATIVE

RESEARCH GRANTS. HOWEVER, USE OF U.S. LEAD AGENCIES FOR ADMINISTRATION OF DIRECT RESEARCH GRANTS AND INSTITUTIONAL GRANTS APPEARS IMPRACTICAL. FOR THESE TWO CLASSES OF GRANTS, THE SECRETARIAT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE MIGHT APPROPRIATELY BE TASKED TO TAKE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR ADMINISTRATION (TO INCLUDE PROCUREMENT, DISBURSEMENT, AND RECORDS KEEPING FOR ACCOUNTABILITY). THE SPANISH BENEFICIARIES WOULD BE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE THE SECRETARIAT WITH ADEQUATE REPORTS. WE BELIEVE THAT SPANISH SIDE WOULD ACCEPT THIS APPROACH AND WOULD BE PREPARED TO ACCEPT THE CONSEQUENT BURDEN OF PROVIDING OFFICE FACILITIES AND CONTRACT STAFF, USING TREATY FUNDS FOR OPERATING COSTS.

(3) FURTHER, WE WOULD ENVISAGE, U.S. ROLE WITH RESPECT TO DIRECT RESEARCH AND INSTITUTIONAL GRANTS, OUTSIDE THAT ENTAILED BY ITS ROLE IN THE SECRETARIAT, WOULD BE CONFINED TO THAT OF ADVICE AND A REVIEW FUNCTION, TO ENSURE THAT PROJECTS TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 MADRID 01414 241233Z

BE SUPPORTED ARE WITHIN THE SPIRIT OF THE TREATY. WE EXPECT TO RECEIVE FROM THE SPANISH SIDE OF THE COMMITTEE COPIES OF PROPOSALS THEY FAVOR, RANKED BY MERIT AND ARRANGED BY PROGRAM AREA, TO PERMIT U.S. REVIEW PRIOR TO ANY JOINT COMMITTEE DECISION ON THEM.

(4) ASSUMING THAT THE ABOVE MEETS WITH THE DEPARTMENT'S APPROVAL, WE WILL NEED MORE DETAILED GUIDANCE AS TO THE LEAD AGENCY FORMAT AND THE JOINT COMMITTEE SECRETARIAT FORMAT. THE CRUCIAL ISSUE WILL, AS PREDICATED ON ALL OUR EARLIER CONTACTS, BE THAT OF FISCAL MANAGEMENT (SEPTEL FOLLOWS).

(5) IT IS OF COURSE ESSENTIAL TO SMOOTH ADMINISTRATION AND GOODWILL THAT PROSPECTIVE U.S. LEADING AGENCIES BE FULLY WILLING AND ABLE TO PERFORM THE ROLE ENVISIONED FOR THEM, AND TO GIVE SOME CONSIDERATION, IN THEIR EVALUATION OF SPANISH PROPOSALS, TO THE DIFFERENCES IN OBJECTIVES AND PROCEDURES THAT ARE LIKELY TO EMERGE. SOME POSSIBLE U.S. CANDIDATES AS LEAD AGENCIES FOLLOW, ALTHOUGH A DEFINITIVE LIST MUST AWAIT SPANISH PROPOSALS:

ERDA - SOLAR AND NUCLEAR ENERGY.

INTERIOR - WATER RESOURCES, PARKS, GEOLOGY.

USDA - AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY.

COMMERCE - INDUSTRIAL STANDARDS, METALLURGY AND PERHAPS OCEANOGRAPHY.

HUD - URBAN PROBLEMS.

EPA - URBAN PROBLEMS.

EPA - ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS.

NIH - BIOMEDICINE.

3. ACTION REQUESTED:

(1) EARLY GUIDANCE, PER PARA. 2B(4) ABOVE.

(2) EXPLORE WITH POTENTIAL LEAD AGENCIES THEIR WILLING-
NESS TO ACT AS LEAD AGENCIES AND THE STANDARDS
THEY WOULD APPLY TO THE EVALUATION OF SPANISH PROPOSALS.

(3) RESPONSE ON PROGRAM AREAS, PER PARA. 2A(2) ABOVE.

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(4) RESPONSE ON PROPOSED DATE FOR NEXT MEETING.STABLER

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Message Attributes

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